



Roland Koch, Minister President of Hessen, presents Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3rd Corps Support Command's commanding general, with a streamer for the unit colors and a certificate as an expression of excellent German and American relations, at the units inactivation ceremony held on Wiesbaden Army Airfield, June 1.



Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, 3rd Corps Support Command's commanding general and Command Sgt. Maj. Willie C. Tennant, Sr. 3rd COSCOM command sergeant major, case the unit colors during the inactivation ceremony held at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, June 1.

COSCOM lowers colors last time in Germany

Story and photos by Spc. David Chapman,
3rd COSCOM Public Affairs Office

The 3rd Corps Support Command held a ceremony on June 1 casing the colors for its move to Fort Knox, Ky. where they will stand up as the 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

After a 49-year history in Europe, the 3rd COSCOM cased its colors in a ceremony that involved over a hundred Soldiers, even more in attendance, cannons and music, on Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

The event took place on the Minue Parade field with Brig. Gen. Scott G. West, 21st Theater Support Command commanding general as the reviewing officer. Many special guests and German dignitaries attended the event, including the Roland Koch, the Minister President of Hessen.

Another element of the ceremony was the inactivation of the COSCOM's subordinate units, the Special Troops Battalion and the 19th Support Center.

Before the casing of the colors these units, as well as the 16th Corps Support Group, 485th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion were awarded the Iraqi Campaign Streamer for their contributions during the Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Following this portion of the ceremony, Minister President Koch joined Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3rd COSCOM commanding general, on the parade field to present a streamer for the COSCOM's distinguished service in Germany-American relations and a certificate.

The minister president thanked the assembled Soldiers for their years of friendship.

"Leaving Wiesbaden for the 3rd COSCOM, is one of the consequences of adapting to the new structure of challenges in the world today," said Koch. "When you leave Germany, and the city of Wiesbaden, we want to say thank you for being here for such a long time, for assuring freedom and for being friends of the state of Hessen and the city of Wiesbaden."

Following the minister presidents comments West took the opportunity to share the accomplishments from the past four decades.

"The 3rd COSCOM has been inextricably linked to the success of the United States Army in Europe. The Soldiers I am seeing today are heroes and they represent thousands of other heroes," said West. "I had the opportunity to watch each of these four formations in Iraq, during their first tour. I had the great fortune of watching the mighty 3rd COSCOM sustaining the line everyday, sustaining the Victory Corp and all the forces that fell under their banner. Under the most brutal conditions they ran the mean streets of Iraq delivering the materiel's to equip, feed, fuel and supply the coalition force."

The commanding general for the 3rd COSCOM then came to the microphone to express his thanks to the Soldiers, the surrounding communities and the families and friends who support the Soldiers.

"To the Soldiers on the parade field, I am humbled and proud of each of you.

Your talent, hard work, determination and professionalism are what made the 3rd COSCOM successful. You are the finest Soldiers that any commander could ask for. As part of the Army transformation plan, the 3rd COSCOM will move to Fort Knox, Kentucky to stand up the 3rd ESC (Expeditionary Support Command). Our mission will be to promote logistics and distribution management anywhere in the world, at anytime, against any adversary," said Lally. "I would be remiss if I didn't touch upon a special group of individuals who make a tremendous impact within the unit. Every night they are there to welcome us home, they take care of the family while we are deployed and they volunteer in the community. They celebrate our success and support us during the rough times. The families of the 3rd COSCOM, I thank you from the bottom of my heart."